

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 1-56 are requested to be cancelled without prejudice to further prosecution on the merits.

Claims 57-112 are being added. No new matter is added.

A replacement Abstract is provided via a replacement abstract sheet (below).

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-14, 16-29 and 31-55 as being unpatentable over International Pub. No. WO 03/050045 to Biesheuvel et al. ("Biesheuvel '045") in view of U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0159447 to Sergio et al. ("Sergio") under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claims 1-14, 16-29, and 31-55 have been cancelled and the rejections thereof are now moot. Applicants have submitted new Claims 57-112.

Independent Claim 57 recites "a cleaning system" comprising, among other elements, "a cleaning system control unit configured to cause recirculation of the supplied cleaning agent through the recirculation circuit of the water supply apparatus by controlling at least part of the water supply apparatus."

As acknowledged by the Examiner on page two of the Office Action, Biesheuvel '045 "does not disclose a cleaning assembly provided to the unit for completing a sanitation program."

Sergio teaches a sanitizer for a dispensing device (see Abstract, Title), but does not disclose, teach or suggest controlled recirculation of cleaning agent through a water supply apparatus. FIGS. 1 and 2 of Sergio (the only Figures shown in the Sergio reference) illustrate

two systems that do not recirculate cleaning agent or any other fluid. Further, a word search of Sergio reveals that the text of Sergio does not mention recirculation.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claim 57 is patentable over Biesheuvel '045 and Sergio.

For many of the same reasons as recited above with respect to Claim 57, Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claims 72, 87 and 104 are patentable over Biesheuvel '045 and Sergio.

With respect to Claim 72, the Applicant respectfully submits that Biesheuvel '045 and Sergio fail to disclose, teach or suggest a “water dispensing system” comprising, among other elements “a cleaning system control unit configured to cause recirculation of the supplied cleaning agent through the recirculation circuit of the water supply apparatus” (as recited in Claim 72).

With respect to Claim 87, the Applicant respectfully submits that Biesheuvel '045 and Sergio fail to disclose, teach or suggest an assembly comprising, among other elements, “a cleaning system control unit configured to cause recirculation of the supplied cleaning agent through the recirculation circuit of the water supply apparatus by controlling the first control unit” (as recited in Claim 87).

With respect to Claim 104, the Applicant respectfully submits that Biesheuvel '045 and Sergio fail to disclose, teach or suggest a method comprising, among other elements, “using a cleaning system control unit to cause recirculation of the supplied cleaning agent through the recirculation circuit of the water supply apparatus” (as recited in Claim 104).

The claims which variously depend from independent Claims 57, 72, 87, and 104 are also patentable. See 35 U.S.C. § 112 ¶ 4.

On page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 15, 30, and 56 as being unpatentable over Biesheuvel '045 in view of Sergio and further in view of U.S. Pub. No. 2004/0118291 to Carhuff et al. ("Carhuff") under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claims 15, 30 and 56 have been cancelled and the rejections thereof are now moot.

The Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claims 57, 72, 87 and 104 are patentable over any proper combination of Biesheuvel '045, Sergio, and/or Carhuff.

Carhuff mentions recirculation of sanitary fluid (see FIGs. 18-19 and accompanying description), but Carhuff's recirculation of sanitary fluid is provided by separate recirculation loops and fluid flow paths for the sanitary fluid (see Paragraphs [0154]-[0157]) and not by an existing or regular fluid recirculation circuit of Carhuff's beverage supply apparatus. Given that Carhuff is missing an existing or regular fluid recirculation circuit that is separate from Carhuff's sanitary circuit, it follows that Carhuff cannot disclose, teach or suggest a control unit for causing the recirculation of a cleaning agent through the missing circuit. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that neither Carhuff nor Biesheuvel '045 nor Sergio disclose, teach or suggest "a cleaning system control unit configured to cause recirculation of the supplied cleaning agent through the recirculation circuit of the water supply apparatus by controlling at least part of the water supply apparatus" (as recited in Claim 57). Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are patentable over any proper combination of Biesheuvel '045, Sergio, and/or Carhuff.

* * *

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by the credit card payment instructions in EFS-Web being incorrect or absent, resulting in a rejected or incorrect credit card transaction, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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